



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

City of San Diego
Planning & Development Review
Building Development Review
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Building Newsletter 3-2

Occupancy Classification for Outpatient Health Care Centers

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes
1998 California Building Code: Chapter 3
Revision Date: July 1999

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This building newsletter addresses occupancy classification information and Uniform Building Code requirements for outpatient health care facilities.

I. Occupancy Classification

A. The occupancy classification depends upon the following factors:

1. The use of general anesthesia (i.e., medical care which may render the patient incapable of unassisted self-preservation).
2. The number of patients involved.

B. If general anesthesia is *not* used in the facility, then the occupancy classification will be Group B regardless of the occupant load.

C. If general anesthesia is used, then the occupancy classification will be determined based upon the number of patients as follows:

1. One to five patients is designated a Group B Occupancy
2. Six or more patients is designated a Group I, Division 1.2 Occupancy (see Section 308 of Title 24, Part 2).

The number of patients for occupancy classification must be determined using Equation 1 below.

The total occupant load of the health care facility must be determined by using an occupant load factor of 80 square feet per occupant as shown in Table No. 10-A.

II. Occupancy Requirements

Once the particular occupancy classification has been established, requirements for that occupancy can be found in the Uniform Building Code.

A. Note that the City of San Diego Fire and Life Safety Services regulates these occupancies through the California State Fire Marshal's adoption of Chapter 10, Part 2, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The designer should contact the Bureau of Fire and Life Safety at (619) 533-4400 for specific requirements regarding these occupancies.

B. Enforcement of the specific provisions of Chapter 3, Part 2, Title 24 of the CCR may also be required for these facilities to be licensed by the Department of Health Services. The designer should contact the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP) at (916) 654-3362 for further information.

C. For additional information regarding the licensing of these facilities through the Department of Health Services contact Licensing & Certification at (619) 688-6190.

Equation 1

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Number} \\ \text{of} \\ \text{Patients} \end{array} = \begin{array}{l} \text{One patient per} \\ \text{preoperative*} \\ \text{room bed} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{One patient} \\ \text{per operating} \\ \text{room bed} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{One patient per} \\ \text{postanesthesia} \\ \text{recovery room bed} \end{array}$$

*One patient per preoperative room bed must be included if general anesthesia is administered in this area.